

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY AF/S:RJTIERNEY:RCB TEXT RECEIVED FROM WHITE HOUSE
APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFLE/ THE SECRETARY
AF/S:DKEOGH
P:GMOOSE
NSC:TTHORNTON
S/S: PTARNOFF

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O 191714Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087500

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO HEAD OF STATE

1. PLEASE RELAY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE AT EARLIEST
OPPORTUNITY FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO SAMORA MACHEL.
SIGNED ORIGINAL WILL FOLLOW.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I HAVE READ YOUR RECENT LETTER TO ME CAREFULLY AND
APPRECIATE IT VERY MUCH. I FOUND IN IT A NUMBER OF
CONCERNS THAT AMERICANS SHARE. IN PARTICULAR, I SHARE
YOUR PROFOUND INTEREST THAT THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN
DIGNITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA REACH A JUST OUTCOME. HUMAN
RIGHTS IS A MATTER OF URGENT CONCERN TO AMERICANS, AND
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MY COUNTRY IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO WORK TOWARD MAJORITY
RULE THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS.

FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN HAS RECENTLY VISITED YOU IN MAPUTO.
I AM SURE THAT HE PROFITED GREATLY FROM YOUR VIEWS. WE
SUPPORT HIS SEARCH FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FULL BACKING FOR

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS, ESPECIALLY IN ZIMBABWE. I AM ANXIOUS TO SEE HIS REPORT AND HEAR HIS

SUGGESTIONS ON HOW WE CAN MAKE OUR MOST EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTION IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE.

WE KNOW THE TASK WILL NOT BE EASY, BUT WE MUST FIND A WAY TO STOP THE BLOODSHED WHILE PROVIDING FOR A FREE AND INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE, IN WHICH ALL PEOPLE WILL BE ACCORDED DIGNITY AND LIBERTY. A LASTING SETTLEMENT MUST MEET AFRICA'S INTERESTS AND ESTABLISH CONDITIONS WHICH WILL ADVANCE THE WELL-BEING AND PROGRESS OF ALL NATIONS IN THE REGION.

IN NAMIBIA THE UNITED STATES IS SIMILARLY COMMITTED TO A SETTLEMENT WHICH WILL ACHIEVE THAT NATION'S INDEPENDENCE IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL.

I KNOW THAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN REDUCING FOREIGN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. I AM GLAD TO BE ABLE TO INFORM YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS PROPOSED DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON MUTUAL MILITARY RESTRAINT, LEADING ULTIMATELY TO DEMILITARIZATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN. WE WILL MEET SOON WITH THE SOVIETS TO EXPLORE THESE MATTERS, AND I HOPE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE REAL PROGRESS. I WOULD BE GLAD TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS ON STEPS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN, FOR SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS MUST TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNS OF STATES IN THE REGION

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AS WELL AS THOSE OF THE SOVIET UNION AND OURSELVES.

THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENT IN THE PROPOSALS SECRETARY VANCE TOOK TO MOSCOW WAS, OF COURSE, THE RECOMMENDATION FOR SUBSTANTIAL DECREASES IN NUCLEAR ARMS. MY ULTIMATE GOAL IN THIS AREA IS THE COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF THESE DESTRUCTIVE WEAPONS. I BELIEVE THAT THIS POLICY IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL NATIONS, AND I HOPE IT WILL RECEIVE YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT. I HAVE ASKED AMBASSADOR DE PREE TO PROVIDE ANY DETAILED INFORMATION ON THESE MATTERS THAT YOU MIGHT WISH.

BILATERAL CONTACTS LIE AT THE HEART OF ANY RELATIONSHIP; THAT IS WHY I PARTICULARLY WELCOMED YOUR COMMENTS ON NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. THE UNITED STATES AND MOZAMBIQUE DIFFER IN MANY WAYS. EACH OF US HAS TURNED TO POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS WE BELIEVE APPROPRIATE FOR OUR OWN CIRCUMSTANCES. BUT WE CAN STILL STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONS IF WE DEAL ON A

BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT.

I AM AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS THAT MOZAMBIQUE FACES AS A NEW NATION AND PARTICULARLY THE DIFFICULTIES THAT YOU ENCOUNTER AS A RESULT OF THE RISING VIOLENCE IN ZIMBABWE. THE UNITED STATES WANTS TO HELP IN DEALING WITH THESE PROBLEMS. FOOD ASSISTANCE WOULD SEEM TO BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE TANGIBLE FORM, AND AMBASSADOR DE PREE IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS WITH YOU. WE ALREADY CONTRIBUTE TO THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES' EFFORT TO ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING OF THE ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES IN YOUR COUNTRY, AND WE ARE CONSIDERING AN INCREASE IN OUR CONTRIBUTION. THE UNITED STATES WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING SO THAT THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE TO GROW. I HOPE TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOU
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TO SUPPLEMENT FRANK DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE AND AMBASSADOR DE PREE AND HIS STAFF. SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER END TEXT.

3. THE FOLLOWING ARE TALKING POINTS FOR YOUR USE WHEN DELIVERING THE MESSAGE:

A. SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO, WE BELIEVE A GOOD BEGINNING HAS BEEN MADE. WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELLE AND OTHER VISITORS AND TO TALK WITH US ON THE SUBJECTS OF ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA; WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO SHARE WITH US YOUR VIEWS AS WE PURSUE OUR EFFORTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO A JUST AND SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE ROLE SOME OF OUR PRIVATE AMERICAN COMPANIES ARE PLAYING IN MOZAMBIQUE (GENERAL TIRE COMPANY, CATERPILLAR, RCA, CASHEW AND SUGAR IMPORTERS). FINALLY WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE MISSIONARIES HAVE BEEN RELEASED, AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTERVENTION IN THEIR BEHALF.

B. THE UNITED STATES IS GREATLY INTERESTED IN PURSUING A DIALOGUE WITH MOZAMBIQUE ON HOW OUR RELATIONS CAN CONTINUE TO DEVELOP. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT BY WORKING TOGETHER, AND THROUGH A FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, OUR TWO COUNTRIES CAN BUILD A FIRM AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP.

C. MOZAMBIQUE HAS MANY FRIENDS IN THE U.S. AND IN OUR CONGRESS AND THERE IS CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN YOUR

NATION AND ITS FUTURE. HOWEVER, INFORMATION ABOUT
MOZAMBIQUE IN THE UNITED STATES IS SPARSE AND OFTEN

DISTORTED. WE HOPE THAT DURING THIS COMING YEAR MORE
OF OUR MEDIA WILL BE ABLE TO VISIT MOZAMBIQUE TO REPORT
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FROM FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE WHAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED.
WE HOPE TOO THAT WE MAY HAVE A BETTER OPPORTUNITY TO
PRESENT U.S. POSITIONS THROUGH YOUR MEDIA.

D. WE ARE PLEASED THAT WE COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE TO
YOUR GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE IN SUPPORT OF YOUR DECISION
TO CLOSE THE BORDER WITH RHODESIA AND THAT WE WERE ABLE
TO OFFER SOME FLOOD RELIEF ASSISTANCE. WE WOULD LIKE TO
DISCUSS WAYS IN WHICH THE U.S. CAN BE OF FUTURE
ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE, ACCORDING TO YOUR NEEDS AND
OUR ABILITIES. WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE EXPANSION OF
TRADE TIES AND TO LEARN YOUR GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON
FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

E. IF YOU SEE MERIT IN UNDERTAKING A QUIET EXPLORA-
TION OF GREATER COOPERATION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR
VIEWS ON WHAT ISSUES SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AND HOW
CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE PURSUED.
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